

IN THE CLAIMS

1-39. (canceled)

40. (previously presented) A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide, comprising:

i) contacting a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11;

b) a polypeptide which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1640; and

c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:12;

with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and

ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide;

thereby identifying a compound which binds to the polypeptide.

41. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

42-43. (canceled)

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;

b) a competition binding assay;

c) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide using an antibody;
and

d) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

45-46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide, comprising:

i) contacting ~~a sample comprising~~ a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11;

b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1640; and

c) a polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:12;

with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and

ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide;
thereby identifying a compound which binds to the polypeptide.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

49-50. (canceled)

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- a) direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;
- b) a competition binding assay;
- c) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide using an antibody;

and

- d) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

52-53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide, comprising:

- i) contacting ~~a sample comprising~~ a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising a ~~biologically active~~ fragment of at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO:11;

- b) a polypeptide comprising a ~~biologically active~~ fragment of at least 15 contiguous amino acids of the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Patent Deposit Number PTA-1640; and

- c) a polypeptide comprising a fragment of at least 15 contiguous amino acids encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:12;

with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and

- ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide; thereby identifying a compound which binds to the polypeptide.

55. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the polypeptide further comprises heterologous sequences.

56-57. (canceled)

58. (previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- a) direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;
- b) a competition binding assay;
- c) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide using an antibody;

and

- d) a yeast two-hybrid assay.

59-60. (canceled)